

A<sup>1</sup>  
a desired location between a first facing layer and a layer of a polymer based blanket material including polymer binding fibers; and

molding said insulator precursor into a desired shape by;

heating said insulator precursor;

applying pressure to said insulator precursor;

softening only those polymer binding fibers present in at least one selected area of said polymer based blanket material; and  
crimping said at least one selected area.

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